

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-7 and 9 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 8 were canceled; and Claims 3, 4 and 5 were amended. More particularly, Claim 5 was amended to recite the subject matter of canceled Claim 8 in its entirety. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

An amendment was made to the specification to correct an error and to clarify the specification. More particularly, the title of the application, which was previously included on the Abstract page, has now been deleted therefrom. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to certain informalities in Claims 1, 3 and 4. In response, Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the sub-area network thereof is a sub-area of a backbone network. This is a clear teaching of the application, such as at page 4, line 9. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from Claim 3, and Claim 1 has been canceled.

**I. 35 U.S.C. §102, Anticipation**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,152, to Kalmanek et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness**

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kalmanek et al in view of U. S. Patent Publication 2002/0021675, to Feldmann. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**III. Allowable Subject Matter**

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Applicants' Claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants, through their attorney, express appreciation to the Examiner for this statement. In view thereof, Applicants have amended

independent Claim 5 to recite the patentable subject matter of Claim 8, now canceled. Accordingly, Claims 3, 4 and 5, as amended herein, are considered to be allowable over the prior art. Moreover, Claims 6-7 and 9 respectively depend from amended Claim 5 and are thus likewise considered to be allowable. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

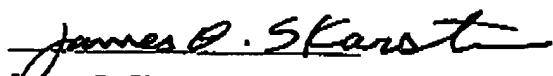
**IV. Conclusion**

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the Kalmanek et al and Feldmann references, and any combination thereof, and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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